



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, over 220,000 Idahoans cannot afford or choose not to purchase health care coverage; and

WHEREAS, eight out of ten of the uninsured are in working families that cannot afford health insurance and are not eligible for public programs; and

WHEREAS, uninsured Idahoans are more likely to frequent hospital emergency rooms as their primary source of care; and

WHEREAS, visits by the uninsured to hospital emergency rooms are extremely expensive, with the costs of these visits eventually passed down to consumers and businesses in the form of higher insurance premiums and taxes; and

WHEREAS, the recent downturn in the economy and rising health care costs threaten to expand the number of uninsured in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of Idaho both economically and as a public health issue, that all its citizens have the ability to access health care coverage;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim March 10 through 16, 2003, to be

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this tenth day of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-seventh and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirteenth.

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature of Ben Isukwa in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

BEN ISUKWA
SECRETARY OF STATE